Loss due to closure of museums

†738. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of museums under the jurisdiction of Archaeological Survey of India and the number of museums which are opened to general public and the one which have been closed;

(b) the reasons for closure of such museums and details of revenue losses suffered by Government so far from the date of closure of such museums; and

(c) by when Government propose to open such museums for general public and tourists as well?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) There are 35 museums which fall under the jurisdiction of Archaeological Survey of India. All the museums are open to the public except the one at Salimgarh Fort and another at the Purana Qila.

(b) and (c) The Salimgarh Museum is closed due to security reasons while the Purana Qila Museum is closed as the work for reorganization has been taken up, which is likely to be completed within the current financial year. As neither of these two museums were ticketed, the question of loss of revenue does not arise.

Setting up of multi purpose cultural complex at Majuli Island, Assam

739. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 182 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th December, 1999 and state:

(a) whether Government propose to consider the possibility of setting up of regular Multi-purpose cultural complex at Majuli Island, the cultural nerve centre of Assam since Srimanta Sankaradev Kalakshetra at Guwahati was set up as a special complex under the obligation of Assam accord;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, in what manner Government propose to permanently nourish the living cultural heritage of India maintained in the Island throughout past five centuries for posterity as well as for organized exhibition to short stay visitors?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such proposal is under consideration for setting up a Multi-Purpose Cultural Complex at Majuli Island.

(c) The Department of Culture actively encourages organizations under its administrative control to undertake activities and programmes which help to preserve, disseminate and nourish the cultural heritage of the North Eastern Region, including Majuli Island. For instance,North Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre and Department of Cultural Affairs, Assam jointly organized Rongali Bihu Festival at Majuli on April 17-18, 2002. Cultural Troupes from other Zonal Cultural Centres also participated in cultural programmes in Majuli Mahotsav 2002 organised in November, 2002.

New tourist centres in U.P.

†740. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount proposed to be allocated project-wise for the development of new tourist centres in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) what are the details of steps to be taken by Government to complete the said projects on time?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The following development works worth Rs. 295.00 lakhs have been sanctioned for Uttar Pradesh during current financial year under the project for Integrated Development ofVaishali-Nalanda-Rajgir-Bodhgaya-Varanasi Tourism Circuit:

Sl. No.	Items of work	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
(i)	Development of facilities and landscaping around Maharani Laxmi Bai Memorial, Varanasi.	90.00
(ii)	Development of Dhammacakkappavattana Udyan at Sarnath	200.00
(iii)	Signages	5.00
	TOTAL:	295.00

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.